

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 959

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tennessee's nine members of 2007 Special Olympics Team USA.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessean athletes, coaches, and manager of the 2007 Special Olympics Team USA are such noteworthy citizens, and they have brought our State and nation honor for their remarkable performance at the Special Olympics World Games, held in Shanghai, China, on October 2-11, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics, founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower people with intellectual disabilities to be physically fit and to become respected and productive members of society through sports training; Special Olympics Tennessee annually serves more than 12,000 children and adults through a network of employees and volunteers which organizes local events in eighteen different sports; and

WHEREAS, as the pinnacle of Special Olympics competition, the 2007 World Games in China was, in addition to being a world-class sporting event, a humanitarian experience in which athletes and fans came together for ten days in an atmosphere of inclusion and respect for all. Showcasing the abilities of almost 7,500 athletes in twenty-five different categories of competition, the event's success relied upon the dedication of 40,000 volunteers and 3,500 event officials from all across the world; and

WHEREAS, the Special Olympics Team USA consisted of more than 400 athletes, 150 coaches, and eighteen managers, and Tennessee is proud to have contributed nine members to this delegation, including athletes Temeca Bradley, Matthew Drumright, Shirley Givens, David

Perry, David Scott, and Morgan Smith; coaches Beth Scruggs and Sean Stake; and Management Team Director Joanne Drumright; and

WHEREAS, Temeca Bradley, a 2007 graduate of Brainerd High School and Special Olympics athlete for three years, utilized her impressive bowling talents to earn a bronze medal in bowling doubles, a fourth place finish in team bowling, and a seventh place finish in bowling singles; and

WHEREAS, a sixteen-year veteran of Special Olympics, Matthew Drumright of Brentwood honorably represented the USA bowling team, earning a bronze medal finish. His accomplished Special Olympics record also includes successes at countless local, state, regional, national, and international competitions in the sports of gymnastics, equestrianism, bowling, golf, aquatics, basketball, and power lifting; many medals, such as three gold medals in gymnastics and one silver medal in equestrianism at two other Special Olympics World Games and a gold medal at the 2006 Shanghai Invitational Games; and distinguished service as a Global Messenger, whereby he shares his Special Olympics experiences with others through public appearances and speeches; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Givens of Lenoir City, a skilled bocce player, won a silver medal in singles, a bronze medal in doubles, and a fourth place finish in team events. Throughout her twenty years competing in Special Olympics, she has also earned medals in other events, including athletics, basketball, bowling, and softball; and

WHEREAS, David Perry, a senior at Oak Ridge High School, has been involved in Special Olympics for several years in the sports of bowling, volleyball, unified volleyball, basketball, unified basketball, ice skating, snow skiing, aquatics, bocce, athletics, and tennis and has earned many gold, silver, and bronze medals; at the 2007 Summer World Games, he competed in the 100 meter, 200 meter, and 4x100 meter relay races; and

WHEREAS, David Scott of New Hope skillfully performed in the bocce contests at the 2007 Summer World Games, winning a bronze medal and two fifth place ribbons. Over the past thirty-two years of involvement with Special Olympics, Mr. Scott has found success in his endeavors in track and field, basketball, golf, and bocce and won a bronze medal in golf at the first National Special Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Morgan Smith, a senior at Fairview High School, competed in the athletic division at the 2007 World Games and earned a gold medal in the 4x100 meter relay, a bronze medal in the 100 meter race, and a fifth place ribbon in the 200 meter race. During the past seven years of Special Olympics competition at the county and state level, Miss Smith has attained a high level of success and renown and was honored with the privilege of carrying the torch in her county Spring Games in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Coach Beth Scruggs of Nashville admirably served Team USA as an aquatics assistant coach; for the past fifteen years, she has volunteered with Special Olympics in many ways, including coordinating the annual state swim meet, leading the Tennessee aquatics team at the 2006 National Games, coaching the Dolphins swim team, and serving as the Nashville aquatics director; and

WHEREAS, a full-time staff member for Special Olympics Tennessee as the Mid-Tennessee Regional Coordinator, Sean Stake, coach of the golf team, utilized his many years of sporting experiences to contribute to Team USA's golf success at the World Games. Mr. Stake has also served the Special Olympics as a tennis, volleyball, and soccer coach and by designing and implementing a new Special Olympics Tennessee website; and

WHEREAS, Joanne Drumright, crucial to Team USA's World Games success as one of eight directors for the team's Management Team, has volunteered with Special Olympics since 1988 in a variety of capacities at all levels, including as a parent volunteer, World Games coach, area training manager for the Williamson County Special Olympics Management Team, member of the organizing committee and Assistant Tournament Director for the first Special Olympics Golf National Invitational Tournament, and Head of Delegation for the Southeast Region for the 2003 World Summer Games in Ireland. In 1995, she became a member of the Special Olympics Tennessee staff and has since served as Director of Unified Sports and Senior Director of Field Services; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments of these great state and national ambassadors are a source of enormous pride for the good people of Tennessee, as their unflagging perseverance, tireless dedication, and indomitable courage are an inspiration to us all; and

WHEREAS, always displaying the spirit and commitment characteristic of a true Tennessean, Tennessee's representatives to the 2007 Special Olympics Team USA are clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and recognition of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Tennessee's members of the 2007 Special Olympics Team USA, congratulate them on their outstanding performance at the World Games in China, and wish them every continued success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.